

26. PLANT RECORDS FOR MAHARASHTRA STATE FROM CHANDRAPUR DISTRICT

During botanical explorations of Chandrapur district of Maharashtra State, some interesting plants new to the state were recorded.

In this note the correct nomenclature, diagnostic characters, details of collection and critical notes are given. All the specimens cited here are deposited in the herbarium of the Western Circle, Botanical Survey of India, Poona (*BSI*).

RUBIACEAE

Hedyotis coerulea Wt. & Arn. Prodr. 412, 1834 ; Fl. Brit. India 3 : 60, 1880.

An erect herb. *Leaves* linear, sessile, bristle pointed. *Flowers* greenish blue. *Capsules* nearly globose. *Fls. & frts.* : August-December. Rare, on sandy soil. Pamburna, *Malhotra* 123790 ; Wamanpalli, *Malhotra* 123806.

Gamble (1921) records this plant from eastern coast (Rampa in Ganjam, Nellore to Tanjore) and also South Kanara on West coast. The present record of the species from Chandrapur district (Maharashtra) extends its distribution further north.

CONVOLVULACEAE

Ipomoea sindica Stapf in Kew Bull. 346, 1894 ; Rolla Rao & Kanodia in Ann. Arid Zone 2(1) : 38, 1963.

A trailing herb. *Leaves* oblong, hastate, acute. *Flowers* light pink. *Capsule* glabrous ; seeds velvety. *Fls. & frts.* : August-October. Rare. On coarse soil. Taroba National Park, *Malhotra* 122594 & 122787.

This plant has been earlier recorded from drier parts of Kutch (Gujarat State) and also from Jodhpur division of Rajasthan. Therefore, the occurrence of this plant in such dry deciduous forests of Chandrapur district (Maharashtra) indicates the possibility of locating this taxon in the surrounding deciduous forests and hilly tracts of central India.

EUPHORBIACEAE

Acalypha lanceolata Willd. Sp. Pl. 4 : 524, 1805 ; *A. fallax* Muell-Arg. in Linnaea 34 : 43, 1865 ; Hook. f. Fl. Brit. India 5 : 416, 1887.

Annual slender herb. *Leaves* ovate-lanceolate cuneate at the base. *Flowers* pale greenish. *Capsules* longer than the bracts, hispid. *Fls. & frts.* : August-October. Not common, on coarse soil. Taroba National Park, *Malhotra* 122596.

The present record is interesting, as it links up the earlier known distribution in southern India, namely N. Circars, Deccan and Carnatic to S. Travancore (*Gamble* 1925) and Central Bengal in the east (*Prain* 1903). It is quite possible the species might occur in the deciduous forests of Bihar and Orissa.

POACEAE

Arthraxon echinatus (Nees) Hochst. in *Flora* 39 : 188, 1856 ; *Bor*, *Grass*. Burma, Ceylon, India and Pak. 99, 1960 ; *A. spathaceus* Hook f. in *Fl. Brit. India* 7 : 145, 1896.

Annual grass. *Spikelets* greenish yellow. Lower glume of sessile spikelet narrowly lanceolate, nerves on back echinulate. *Fls. & frts.* : August-November. Rare, growing along the rocky crevices. Taroba National Park, *Malhotra* 122823.

This species was recorded by *Gamble* (1934) from Madras State. The present record extends its distribution further north.

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27. *UTRICULARIA STRICTICAULIS* STAPF FROM BHUBANESWAR—A NEW RECORD FOR ORISSA

Utricularia stricticaulis Stapf (= *U. reticulata* Sm. var. *uliginosa* C.B. Cl.) a species known from south Deccan Peninsula, Bengal and Ceylon, is recorded here for the first time from Orissa. The species is characterised by short scape with basifix scales, linear bracteoles ; suberect pedicels in fruiting, acute, yellow, decurrent calyx, enlarged in fruit, bluish corolla about equalling the calyx ; obovoid, slightly dorsiventrally